

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

H-03 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 MC-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

ACDA-19 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /122 W

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R 261043Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2763

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6838

E.O. 11652: ADS, DECLASSIFY AFTER 30 JUNE 1975

TAGS: MASS, TH

SUBJ: THAILAND MAP

REF: STATE 083250

1. SUMMARY: IN EARLY APRIL THE RTG BELATEDLY SOUGHT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPROVAL FOR A \$17.65 MILLION SUPPLEMENTAL DEFENSE APPROPRIATION TO OFFSET THE APPROXIMATELY \$17 MILLION REDUCTION IN US FY 73 MAP FROM THE LEVEL THEY EXPECTED TO RECEIVE (\$60 MILLION). THE RTG MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (MOD) PLANS TO MAKE ANOTHER SIMILAR REQUEST AFTER THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT THAI FISCAL YEAR (1 OCTOBER 1974) TO COMPENSATE FOR WHAT THEY EXPECT WILL BE A SMALL FY 74 MAP. (THEY AGAIN EXPECTED TO RECEIVED \$60 MILLION.) THE THAI DEFENSE BUDGET PLANNERS, THUS, ARE OVER ONE YEAR BEHIND THE CURVE IN REQUESTING FUNDS TO COMPENSATE FOR SHARPLY REDUCED US MAP. THAI MILITARY LOGISTIC PROBLEMS ARE BEGINNING TO ACCUMULATE AS A RESULT OF THE REDUCTION OF MAP IN FY 73 AND BECAUSE NO FUNDS HAVE YET BEEN RELEASED FOR THE FY 74 PROGRAM: THE ARMY VEHICLE DEADLINE RATE IS INCREASING AND -- FOR SEVERAL REASONS -- AIR FORCE FLIGHT TIME HAS BEEN CUT. ALTHOUGH THAI ARMED FORCES HAVE DRAWN DOWN THEIR SPARE PARTS TO WELL BELOW REORDER LEVEL, THEY

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HAVE NOT YET BEGUN TO BUY THEIR OWN. THE SITUATION STRESSES

THE NEED FOR OBTAINING ADEQUATE FY 75 MAP FUNDS AND FOR LEVELLING WITH THE THAI ABOUT ON-GOING MAP AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. AS RTG PLANNERS NEED REASONABLE ESTIMATES AND ADEQUATE LEAD TIME TO PREPARE BUDGET AND LEGISLATION REQUESTS, WE REQUEST PERMISSION TO DISCUSS WITH THE THAI THE LEVEL AND PROSPECTS OF THE PLANNED FY 75 MAP FOR THAILAND. RETICENCE IN THESE MATTERS TENDS TO MISLEAD THAI AND TO WORK AGAINST OUR AND THEIR BETTER INTERESTS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN EARLY APRIL THE RTG SOUGHT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPROVAL OF A BAHT 3,030 MILLION (US \$151.5 MILLION) SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET APPROPRIATION. OF THIS AMOUNT, BAHT 353 MILLION (US \$17.65 MILLION) IS FOR DEFENSE BUDGET REQUIREMENTS.

3. A SENIOR RTG MINISTRY OF DEFENSE LOGISTICS OFFICIAL STATED THAT THE BAHT 353 MILLION WAS REQUESTED TO OFFSET THE APPROXIMATELY \$17 MILLION REDUCTION IN US MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN FY 73 BELOW THE \$60 MILLION FIGURE FOR WHICH THE RTG HAD BUDGETED. (COMMENT: IN FY E US MAP GRANT AID INCLUDED \$35.8 MILLION PLUS \$2.1 MILLION FOR TRANSPORTATION AND THE TRANSFER OF SIX F-5A FIGHTER AIRCRAFT -- WORTH \$5.38 MILLION -- FOR A TOTAL VALUE OF APPROXIMATELY \$43.8 MILLION.) THE OFFICIAL STATED THAT BECAUSE THE RTG DID NOT KNOW THE FINAL LEVEL OF US MAP UNTIL LATE FEBRUARY 1973 (WELL AFTER THE RTG'S FY 74 BUDGET HAD BEEN PREPARED), THE FUNDS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN SOUGHT EARLIER. IN LIKE MANNER, HE ADDED, THE RTG WILL NOT BE ABLE TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS AFTER OCTOBER 1974 TO COMPENSATE FOR A SMALLER FY 74 MAP PROGRAM THAN THE \$60 MILLION THEY HOPED TO RECEIVE (IN PART ON THE BASIS OF HIGH-LEVEL US ASSURANCES). APPROPRIATIONS, THUS, FOLLOW NEED BY AT LEAST ONE YEAR.

4. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL, THE MOD'S PRESENT BAHT 353 MILLION REQUEST WAS SUBDIVIDED INTO REQUESTS FOR BAHT 200 MILLION (\$10 MILLION) FOR FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT AND BAHT 153 MILLION (\$7.65 MILLION) FOR "PER DIEM" (PERSONNEL OPERATING FUNDS). HE SAID THE ASSEMBLY HAS APPROVED THE PER DIEM REQUEST BUT HAS REQUESTED FURTHER JUSTIFICATION FOR THE FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT FUND REQUEST.

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5. THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE MOD CONCURRENTLY HAD ASKED FOR ANOTHER BAHT 340 MILLION (\$17 MILLION) SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO OFFSET WHAT THE RTG EXPECTED TO BE THE FY 74 MAP SHORTFALL. HE SAID THE ASSEMBLY RETURNED THE REQUEST TO THE MINISTRY WITH A REQUEST TO RESUBMIT IT AFTER 1 OCTOBER 1974 (THE BEGINNING OF THAI FY 75). ACCORDINGLY, AFTER OCTOBER 1, THE MOD PLANS TO ASK FOR ANOTHER BAHT 440 MILLION (\$22 MILLION) TO COMPENSATE FOR

FY 74 MAP WELL BELOW EXPECTED LEVELS. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER, THAT THE MOD WILL SEEK BAHT 700 MILLION (\$35 MILLION) INSTEAD OF BAHT 440 MILLION AS A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR TWO YEARS (FY 74 AND FY 75) " TO CATCH UP."

6. WE HAVE HEARD INFORMALLY THAT THE STIPULATED FY 74 MAP GRANT AID LEVEL FOR THAILAND MAY NOW BE CUT TO \$30 MILLION OR EVEN LESS. WE HAVE NOT YET INFORMED THEM OF THIS BAD NEWS. WE FURTHER ASSUME THAT, IN LIGHT OF THE CONTINUING CIRCUMSTANCES IN CAMBODIA, THE SITUATION MAY WELL BE REPEATED NEXT YEAR. MOREOVER, WE PROBABLY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO INFORM THE THAI OF THE FINAL APPROVED MAP FY 75 PROGRAM-LEVEL UNTIL THE 3D OR 4TH QUARTER OF FY 75.

7. THE RTG CLEARLY
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